

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 CU-04 SS-20

NSC-07 NSCE-00 INRE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 IO-14

DRC-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 /087 W

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O 181620Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9455

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1085

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: RICHARD SAUNDERS

1. SAUNDERS' SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY IN JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN BUT WAS MARRED FRIDAY EVENING IN DURBAN WHEN MAITRE D' OF A LA CARTE RESTAURANT IN HOTEL WHERE SAUNDERS AND WIFE LODGED INDICATED THEY COULD NOT BE SERVED IN THAT RESTAURANT AS IT NOT OPEN TO NON-WHITE GUESTS. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF REVIEW OF INCIDENT:

2. AFTER COMPLETING LECTURE ORGANIZED BY SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF JOURNALISTS (SASJ), DURBAN BRANCH, SAUNDERS AND WIFE INVITED BY SASJ CHAIRMAN TO JOIN MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE FOR DRINKS AND DINNER AT HOTEL WHERE MR. AND MRS. SAUNDERS LODGED. PARTY INCLUDED MR. GODFREY KING, CHAIRMAN OF SASJ, MR. JOHN BEVERLEY OF NATAL MERCURY AND MR. AND MRS. BRIAN RUDDEN, HE IS DURBAN EDITOR OF SUNDAY TIMES, SHE EDITOR DAILY NEWS WOMEN'S PAGE. PARTY ARRIVED AT HOTEL AT 8:05 AND MR. KING CHECKED TABLE

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RESERVATION WITH RECEPTION. WAS TOLD PARTY WAS LATE FOR MAIN

DINING ROOM AND RESERVATION CHANGED TO THE CASCADES, HOTEL'S  
A LA CARTE ROOM AND NIGHT CLUB.

3. AFTER PARTY SEATED IN RESTAURANT MAITRE D' CALLED BEVERLEY  
ASIDE, WHO JOINED BY RUDDEN AND MR. SAUNDERS, AND INFORMED THEM  
ALL PUBLIC ROOMS WITH EXCEPTION OF NIGHT CLUB OPEN TO NON-WHITE  
GUESTS OF HOTEL. GROUP INFORMED MAITRE D' WHO EACH REPRESENTED  
AND INSISTED MATTER BE TAKEN UP WITH HOTEL MANAGER.

4. MAITRE D' RETURNED IN APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES TO INDICATE  
PARTY COULD DINE BUT MUST NOT DANCE. SOUTH AFRICANS IN GROUP  
WERE HUMILIATED BY THIS ADMONITION BUT SAUNDERS REQUESTED HIS  
EMBARASSED HOSTS NOT TO FEEL BAD AND KEPT PARTY TOGETHER WITH  
HIS INTERESTING CONVERSATION. PARTY TOOK LEAVE OF SAUNDERS AT  
APPROXIMATELY 12:30 A.M. THROUGHOUT INCIDENT MR. AND MRS.  
SAUNDERS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES WITH COMPLETE DIGNITY.

5. SUNDAY TIMES FRONT-PAGED STORY WITH PIX OF MR. AND MRS.  
SAUNDERS UNDER HEADLINE "NEGRO COUPLE TOLD TO LEAVE NIGHT CLUB".  
STORY BY-LINED "BRIAN RUDDEN" IS FAIR NEWS REVIEW OF INCIDENT.

6. SECOND INCIDENT OCCURRED IN HOTEL LOUNGE MARCH 17 WHEN SAUNDERS  
AND INDIAN JOURNALIST INTERVIEWING HIM WERE REPORTEDLY REFUSED  
SERVICE. MR. AND MRS. SAUNDERS SUBSEQUENTLY CHECKED OUT OF  
HOTEL.

7. AMBASSADOR HAS MADE TELEPHONE PROTEST TO DEPUTY SECRETARY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DALSEN, IN ABSENCE OF FORSEC, RELAYED  
EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER INCIDENTS AND ADVISED THAT A FORMAL  
WRITTEN PROTEST WOULD BE DELIVERED TO FORMIN. MISSION RESPONDING  
TO PRESS INQUIRIES THAT EMBASSY VERY DISTURBED BY INCIDENTS  
AND TAKING MATTER UP WITH SAG.

8. MR. AND MRS. SAUNDERS NOW IN KWAZULU, TOGETHER WITH CONSUL  
GENERAL HOLMES FOR OPENING OF EXHIBIT TONIGHT. THOUGH BOTH VERY  
DISTURBED BY INCIDENTS, NOW BELIEVE THEY INTEND REMAIN SOUTH  
AFRICA THROUGH OPENING OF EXHIBIT AT UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN/  
WESTVILLE THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST.  
PETERSON

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## Message Attributes

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